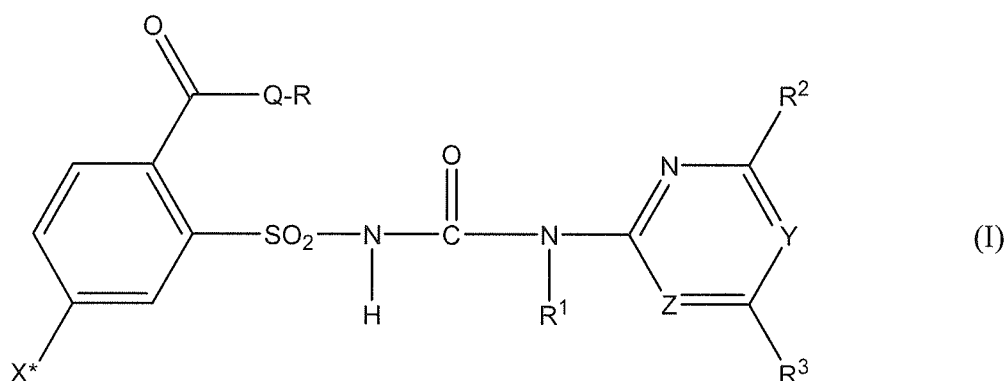


AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A process for preparing the compound of the formula (I) or a salt thereof



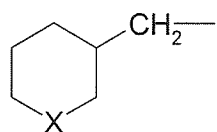
where

Q is oxygen or sulfur,

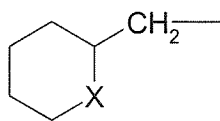
X* is a hydrogen or halogen,

Y,Z independently of one another are CH or N, where Y and Z are not simultaneously CH,

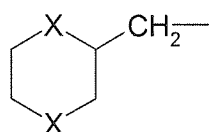
R is hydrogen, (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl, (C₂-C₁₀)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₁₀)-alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)-alkyl which is mono- to tetra-substituted by radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)-alkylthio, CN, [(C₁-C₄)-alkoxy]carbonyl and (C₂-C₆)-alkenyl, or (C₃-C₈)-cycloalkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by radicals selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)-alkylthio and halogen, (C₅-C₈)-cycloalkenyl, phenyl-(C₁-C₄)-alkyl which is unsubstituted in the phenyl radical or substituted by one or more radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy, (C₁-C₄)-haloalkyl, (C₁-C₄)-alkylthio, [(C₁-C₄)-alkoxy]carbonyl, [(C₁-C₄)-alkyl]carbonyloxy, carbamoyl, [(C₁-C₄)-alkyl]carbonylamino, [(C₁-C₄)-alkyl]aminocarbonyl, di-[(C₁-C₄)-alkyl]aminocarbonyl and nitro, or a radical of the formulae A-1 to A-10



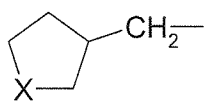
A-1



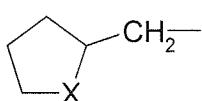
A-2



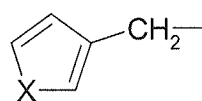
A-3



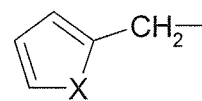
A-4



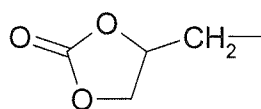
A-5



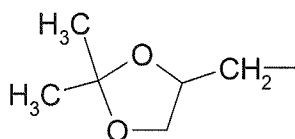
A-6



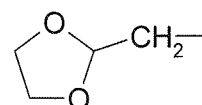
A-7



A-8



A-9



A-10

where in the formulae A-1 to A-10

the radical X or the radicals X independently of one another is/are O, S, S(O) or SO₂,

R¹ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkyl,

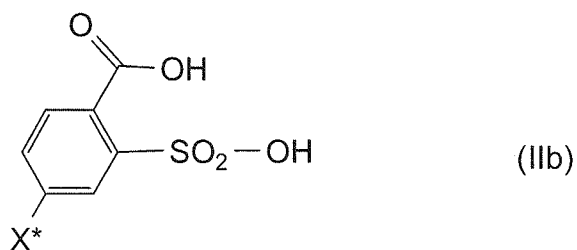
R² is hydrogen, halogen, (C₁-C₃)-alkyl or (C₁-C₃)-alkoxy, where each of the two last-mentioned radicals is unsubstituted or mono- or polysubstituted by halogen or (C₁-C₃)-alkoxy,

R³ is hydrogen, halogen, (C₁-C₃)-alkyl, (C₁-C₃)-alkoxy or (C₁-C₃)-alkylthio, where each of the three last-mentioned radicals is unsubstituted or mono- or polysubstituted by halogen or mono- or disubstituted by (C₁-C₃)-alkoxy or (C₁-C₃)-alkylthio, or a radical of the formula NR⁴R⁵, (C₃-C₆)-cycloalkyl, (C₂-C₄)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₄)-alkynyl, (C₃-C₄)-alkenyloxy or (C₃-C₄)-alkynyloxy,

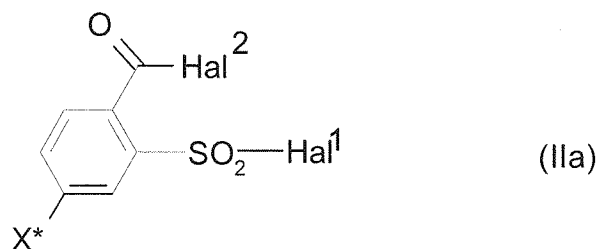
R⁴ and R⁵ independently of one another are hydrogen, (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₃-C₄)-alkenyl, (C₁-C₄)-haloalkyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy,

which comprises

a') converting a compound of formula (IIb) in an inert organic solvent



to a compound of formula (IIa)



where

Hal¹ is a halogen atom,

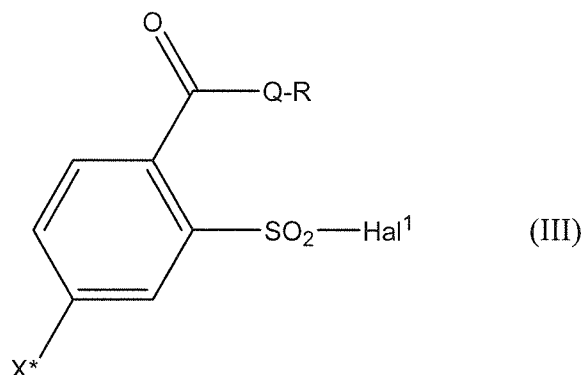
Hal² is a halogen atom and

X* is as defined in formula (I)

by reaction of the the compound of formula (IIb) with a halogenating agent;

a) converting a compound of the formula (IIa) in an inert organic solvent

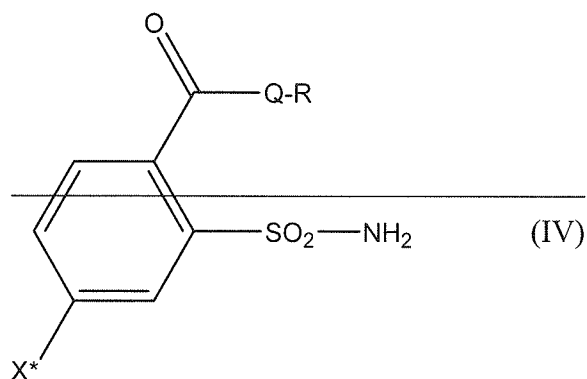
by reaction with a compound of the formula R-Q-H or a salt thereof into a compound of the formula (III)



where R, Q and X are as defined in formula (I) and Hal¹ is as defined in formula (II), and

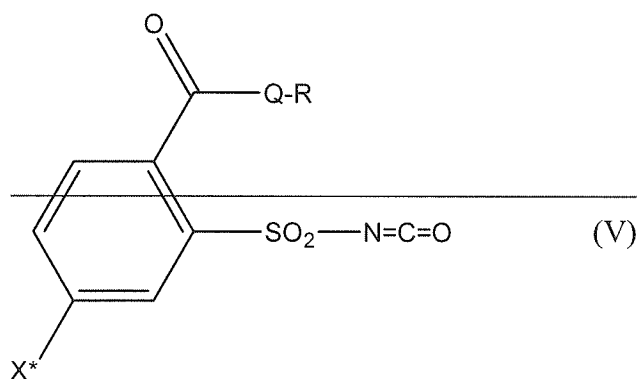
(b) with or without intermediate isolation either

~~(b1) — ammonolysing the resulting compound (III) to give the sulfonamide of the formula (IV)~~



~~where R, Q and X^* are as defined in formula (III),~~

~~and converting the compound (IV) with or without intermediate isolation with phosgene into the phenylsulfonyl isocyanate of the formula (V)~~



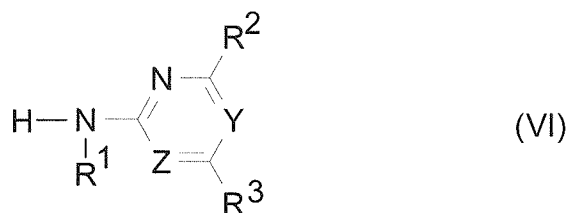
~~where R, Q and X^* are as defined in formula (III),~~

~~or~~

(b2) converting the resulting compound (III) with a cyanate in the presence of an aprotic polar solvent into the isocyanate of the formula (V) or a solvate of said aprotic polar solvent thereof, wherein the conversion is conducted at a temperature range of from -10°C to 30°C,

and

- (c) converting the isocyanate of the formula (V) or its stabilized derivative, with or without intermediate isolation, with a heterocyclic amine of the formula (VI)



where R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , Y and Z are as defined in formula (I) and the conversion is conducted at a temperature range of from 40°C to 80°C,

into the sulfonylurea of the formula (I) or a salt thereof.

2. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the compound of the formula (I) or its salt

Q is an oxygen atom,

X* is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom,

R is (C₁-C₄)-alkyl, (C₂-C₄)-alkenyl, (C₂-C₄)-alkynyl, (C₁-C₄)-haloalkyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy(C₁-C₄)-alkyl,

R¹ is a hydrogen atom,

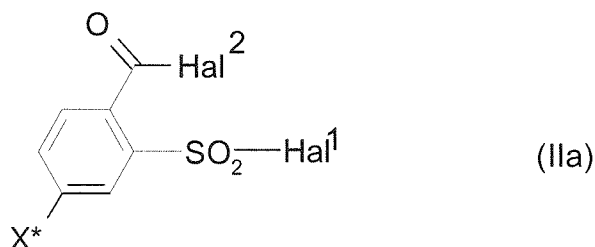
R² is (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy,

R³ is (C₁-C₄)-alkyl or (C₁-C₄)-alkoxy,

Y is a nitrogen atom or a group of the formula CH and

Z is a nitrogen atom.

3. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in step a) the compounds of the formula (II) used are a compound of formula (IIa):



where

Hal¹ is halogen,

Hal² is halogen, and

X* is an iodine atom.

4. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein in the compound of the formula (I) or its salt

X* is an iodine atom,

R is methyl or ethyl,

R² is methoxy,

R³ is methyl and

Y is a nitrogen atom.

5. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the esterification to the monoester (III) is carried out in an inert organic solvent selected from the group of the nonpolar aprotic organic solvents, at a temperature of from -20°C to 100°C.

6. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the esterification to the monoester (III) is carried out using a (C₁-C₄)-alkanol at a temperature of from -10°C to 70°C or using an alkali metal (C₁-C₄)-alkoxide at a temperature of from -20°C to 50°C.

7. (Previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preparation of the isocyanate (V) is carried out in the presence of an aprotic polar solvent at a temperature of from -30°C to 70°C .

8. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the preparation of the isocyanate (V) is carried out in the presence of an N-heteroaromatic compound.

9-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1, wherein Hal^1 and Hal^2 is chlorine and the halogenating agent is thionyl chloride, PCl_3 , POCl_3 or mixtures thereof.

19. (Previously presented) The process of claim 3, wherein Hal^1 and Hal^2 is chlorine the halogenating agent is thionyl chloride, PCl_3 , POCl_3 or mixtures thereof.

20. (New) The process of claim 18, wherein:

Q is oxygen;

X^* is iodine;

Y and Z is nitrogen;

R is hydrogen;

R^1 is hydrogen;

R^2 is methyl; and

R^3 is $-\text{OCH}_3$.